

MAY 27, 2016

City Council Newsletter



In this issue

[Journalist Donnell Alexander at Eugene Public Library](#)
[South Willamette Street Restriping Set for Next Week](#)
[Real Talk Youth Summit: Our History, Racism, Our Future](#)
[Public Hearing Set for Transportation System Plan](#)
[Wetlands Nature Walk with a Cop](#)
[Public Works Tradition Inspires Thousands of Smiles](#)
[Downtown Gets Bugged](#)
[Council Links](#)



Journalist Donnell Alexander at Eugene Public Library

On Thursday, June 2, 6:00, the Downtown Eugene Public Library will host "Oregon No Longer Strange," a talk by Donnell Alexander. Admission is free.

A storyteller, writer, and journalist, Alexander will share "the revelations he has had in becoming a Black Oregonian." His presentation will be both serious and humorous, and will include time for questions and answers.

Donnell Alexander has been published widely, including in Time, Rolling Stone, and Salon. He co-produced the 2009 animated short "Dock Ellis & the LSD No-No" and authored the memoir "Ghetto Celebrity," as a personal, elongated addendum to his essay "Cool Like Me: Are Black People Cooler than White People?" Alexander has worked as a staff writer at LA Citybeat, ESPN: The Magazine, LA Weekly, the San Francisco Bay Guardian, and the Chico News & Review.



For more information, contact Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

[TOP](#)



South Willamette Street Restriping Set for Next Week

The first stages of a pilot study that could lead to a more vibrant section of south Willamette Street officially gets underway next week. Crews are set to restripe the road between 24th and 32nd avenues, creating one travel lane in each direction, a center turn lane, and bicycle lanes on both sides of the street. In the vicinity of 29th Avenue, the restriping study will include two southbound lanes, as well as the other changes.



The restriping is scheduled to take place Tuesday night, May 31, into Wednesday morning, June 1, weather permitting. The timing is intended to have the least amount of impact for those using the corridor.

For the last several months, construction crews have worked to widen parts of the road and install a new traffic signal at the Woodfield Station entrance. The signal, as well as the signal at 29th Avenue and Willamette Street, now includes permissive left turns with a flashing yellow arrow, a feature that allows

drivers to make left turns in addition to the green arrows.

Once all of the work is complete, City staff will begin the pilot study to measure the impacts these changes have on the area. They will report back to council in summer of 2017. Council will make a final decision on the direction of the thoroughfare.

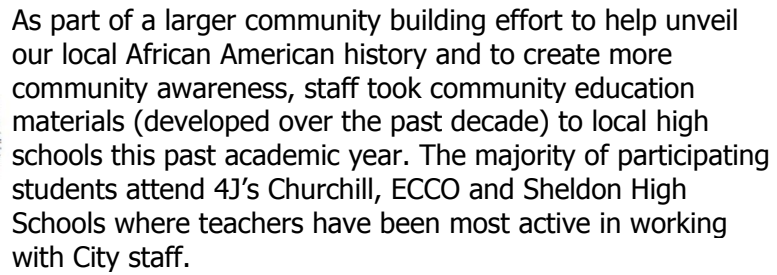
For more information on the pilot study, contact Chris Henry, Transportation Planning Engineer, at 541-682-8472.

[TOP](#)

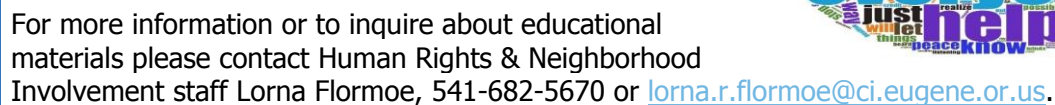


Real Talk Youth Summit: Our History, Racism, Our Future

Last Thursday, a group of 120 racially diverse local high school youth met with elders and organizers at the LCC Long House to talk frankly about hidden histories, racism and what we want for our community and our future. The history of African Americans in the Eugene/Springfield area, which began with legal exclusion from living in the state and within the City limits, is little known, especially to white Eugene.



Youth input from class work and the Summit will be integrated into the community educational materials. A display and materials should be available for community lending by the end of the year. These word clouds represent part of the students' work.



Public Hearing Set for Forward-Thinking Transportation System Plan

The final draft of the 2035 TSP is available on the project website: www.EugeneTSP.org. The Eugene and Lane County Planning Commissions will hold a joint public hearing on the 2035 TSP on Tuesday, June 21, at 6 p.m. in Harris Hall at 125 E. 8th Avenue. Development of this plan benefitted from countless hours of help by the Transportation Community Resource group, staff from multiple local and state agencies, neighborhood and community organizations, local commissions, committees, and the general public.



The 2035 TSP reflects recent Eugene initiatives such as addressing the pillars of Envision Eugene, MovingAhead corridor planning, the Climate Change Recovery Ordinance, and "Vision Zero" safety initiatives.

The upcoming public hearing is an opportunity for people to provide, directly to the Planning Commission, comments on the proposed plan, suggested changes, or any other thoughts that the public may have regarding *2035 TSP* package. Comments to the Planning Commissions may be submitted directly to the Commissions during the public hearing or through a written statement addressed to the Planning Commissions, c/o Kurt Yeiter, Public

Works- Engineering, 99 East Broadway, Suite 400, Eugene, Oregon 97401 or by e-mail to kurt.m.yeiter@ci.eugene.or.us.

As part of the total *2035 TSP* package, on June 21 the Eugene Planning Commission will also be taking testimony from the public on corresponding amendments to the *Metro* Plan, *TransPlan*, Eugene Code Chapter 9, Eugene's Street Classification Map, and Ordinance No. 20528 (to remove the "trip cap" limits to development imposed by that ordinance on lands zoned for employment). While the proposed *2035 TSP* and Street Classification Map amendments are currently available on the project website, the other proposed amendments, the findings in support of the entire *2035 TSP* package, as well as the staff report to the Planning Commission, will be available by June 14 on the Eugene Planning Commission's webpage at: www.eugene-or.gov/pc.

For more information, contact Kurt Yeiter, Transportation Senior Planner, at 541-682-8379 or kurt.m.yeiter@ci.eugene.or.us.

[TOP](#)



Wetlands Nature Walk with a Cop

A Eugene Police School Resource officer and bike patrol officer accompanied nearly 450 Kennedy Middle School students on a wetlands walk, along with school staff and parent volunteers. This nature walk was an opportunity for students to engage in physical activity and learn about the natural world.

In addition, students have gathered more than \$9,000 in donation pledges to support student programs and activities such as student PRIDE. PRIDE (which stands for Positive attitude, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, Excellence) is an incentive program that rewards students for attendance, appropriate behavior and school work.



For more information, contact Melinda McLaughlin at Melinda.V.McLaughlin@ci.eugene.or.us

[TOP](#)



Public Works Tradition Inspires Thousands of Smiles

Smiles were abundant and curiosity piqued, as City staff hosted another successful Public Works Day. An estimated 2,300 people were on hand for the annual educational event that highlights many of the services Public Works provides each day.

Some of the traditional favorites were back including Tiny Town, climbable heavy machinery, and an area where children could learn the value of recycling. Mayor Kitty Piercy also led a group of students around the yard.



There were several changes to this year's event. The organizational structure moved to an incident command system (ICS) which enables effective and efficient management through the integration of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications within a common organizational structure. Staff also moved the exit to a different part of the Roosevelt Yard. This helped ease some of the congestion for bus drivers as they picked up students at the conclusion of their tour.

For more information on Public Works Day, contact Kim Mast, event coordinator, at 541-682-5548.

[TOP](#)



Downtown Gets Bugged

Downtown Eugene is known for its green attractions and colorful hanging flower baskets. Keeping downtown plants and flowers healthy, however, requires some work – by City staff

and some helpful insects. This week City of Eugene Facilities staff began releasing more than 1.5 million ladybugs and green lace wings throughout downtown to help prevent harmful insects, such as aphids and thrips, from impacting the seasonal hanging flower baskets and planters. This effort is a result of several years of work by the City of Eugene Facilities Division to move away from pesticide use and use natural approaches to help control plant pests.



Last year Facilities began using ladybugs and green lace wings to help manage harmful pests in conjunction with using pest resistant plant varieties. More than 50,000 ladybugs were released downtown, at a rate of approximately 5,000 to 8,000 ladybugs every two weeks over the course of the summer season. The combination of pest resistant plants and the beneficial insects turned out to be a complete success.

Based on that success, Facilities will continue using the beneficial insects as the primary tool for managing plant pests downtown. Facilities staff expect to release more than 1.3 million Green Lacewing eggs, 4,000 Green Lacewing adults, 2,000 preying mantis eggs, and 180,000 Ladybugs, for a total of more than 1.5 million beneficial insects, over the course of the season.

Facilities began working with Beyond Toxics and other stakeholders several years ago on strategies to reduce or eliminate the need for pesticide use for the hanging flower baskets and planters. With assistance from Johnson's Nursery, the City also started using pest resistant plant varieties in key areas downtown that are often more susceptible to pest infestations.

The practice is also less expensive than using pesticides, costing about half as much. All of which makes this another great example of the City's ongoing effort to improve the ways we do business according to the triple bottom line - environmentally, economically and equitably.



For more information, contact Jeff Perry, Facilities Division Manager, 682-5438.

[TOP](#)

[Links to Eugene City Council Resources](#)

[Mayor & City Council Webpage](#)

